

provided within the slot (see drawings 108/308/508).

Accordingly, as can be seen in all the figures, each alleged illustrated species depicted in the drawings includes at least all of the features of at least each of above listed independent, generic claims. The remaining claims are either dependent claims or are independent claims which include all the limitations of the at least one generic claim.

Thus, pursuant to Rule 141, all the current claims are proper and may be examined together in the subject application.

CONCLUSION

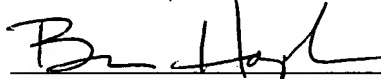
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that the issue raised in the outstanding Action has been addressed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration of all the original claims and early passage to issue of the present application.

No fee is currently due for the present response. However, in the event that it is determined that additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311. Ref. No. 26571-501.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 935-3000. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Dated: April 12, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Brian P. Hopkins, Reg. No. 42,669
Attorney for Applicant
Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris
Glovsky & Popeo, P.C.
The Chrysler Center
666 Third Avenue, 24th Floor
New York, New York 10017
Tel: (212) 935-3000
Fax: (212) 983-3115